



1409 Deer Meadow Lane
Boothwyn, PA 19061-1925
October 12, 1999

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FBI DOCKET ROOM
99 OCT 21 AM 11:02

USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk
300 12th Street, SW
Room 102 Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Re: DOCKET No. 98-045N

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my understanding that the President's Council on Food Safety is seeking public comments on reducing foodborne diseases in our nation's food supply. I

To that end, may I suggest banning the forced molting of hens, i.e. starving hens to increase egg production. This is a very irresponsible practice that produces enormous stress on the birds, weakening their immune systems, and thereby generating outbreaks of Salmonella Enteritidis and Campylobacter.

I strongly urge you to ban the forced molting of hens. Not only is this method of food production inhumane, but it is placing the health of our nation's consumers, including children who are most at risk, in danger.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this most important issue. I trust that I can depend on you to make a responsible decision in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Maryanne Appel